GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6247
ANSWERED ON:12.04.2017
Relations with Nepal
Senguttuvan Shri Balasubramaniam

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India backed the demands of the Madhesis and pursuant to their demands, any constitutional amendment has been effected by Nepal to accommodate the rights of the Madhesis and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether in consequence, the blockade of Nepal called by the Madhesis has ended clearing the way for mutual trade between the two countries and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any new diplomatic offensive is in the offing to improve the relations between the two countries and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) India has always stood for peace, stability and progress in Nepal. India has been supportive of a broad-based and inclusive Constitution in Nepal and, towards this objective, a process of dialogue and consultation among the Nepalese stakeholders to accommodate the aspirations of all sections of the society. The Legislature-Parliament of Nepal on 23 January 2016 endorsed the first constitution amendment bill amending two articles of the Constitution ensuring proportional inclusiveness and delimitation of electoral constitutiencies based on population.

(b) When the protesting groups in Nepal decided to end their picketing of border entry/exit points in February 2016, the movement of Cargo vehicles across the border became normal.

(c) India's age-old ties with Nepal are unique, characterized by open border and based on shared history, geography, culture, people-to-people relations, and close economic linkages. A number of high level exchanges, both at the political and official levels, have taken place, which have provided further momentum to our bilateral ties across diverse sectors. The Government of India continues to work together with the Government of Nepal and takes all necessary measures to strengthen and deepen its multi-faceted bilateral partnership with the Government and people of Nepal for the mutual benefit and progress of both countries.
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